

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8018

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VC

SUBJ: ST. VINCENT HIGH COURT RULES JOSHUA'S GROUP IS THE PPP

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1818

1. ACCORDING TO REUTER'S, A ST. VINCENT HIGH COURT RULED ON NOVEMBER 4 THAT EBENEZER JOSHUA, FORMER DEPUTY PREMIER, IS THE LEADER OF THE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL PARTY (PPP) AND ONLY THE GROUP LED BY HIM CAN REPRESENT ITSELF AS THE PPP. THE COURT ALSO ISSUED A RESTRAINING ORDER PROHIBITING COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS MINISTER OTHNEIL SYLVESTER AND HIS FOLLOWERS FROM REPRESENTING THEMSELVES AS THE PPP.
2. THE ISSUE OF WHICH GROUP - JOSHUA'S OR SYLVESTER'S - CONSTITUTES THE PPP WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURT BY JOSHUA FOLLOWING THE FILING OF A PETITION BY SYLVESTER WITH THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS TO APPROPRIATE THE PPP ELECTION SYMBOL "THE CLOCK". JOSHUA ASKED THE COURT TO RULE ON THE ISSUE TO PREVENT THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS FROM ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FROM ANY GROUP OTHER THAN HIS OWN CALLING ITSELF THE PPP.
3. SYLVESTER HAS REPORTEDLY FILED AN APPEAL AGAINST THE HIGH COURT RULING.

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4. COMMENT: LOSS OF THIS COURT DECISION REPRESENTS A SET-BACK

TO PREMIER JAMES F. MITCHELL AND HIS FORMER PPP MINISTERS
SYLVESTER, DENNIE, AND CUFFY. THEY HAD APPARENTLY PLANNED TO
CAMPAIGN AND RUN IN THE UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTIONS AS THE PPP.
THIS GROUP, KNOWN IN ST. VINCENT AS THE "JUNTA," WAS PROBABLY
COUNTING ON VOTER IDENTIFICATION OF THE PARTY WITH JOSHUA TO
CONFUSE THE LATTER'S SUPPORTERS INTO VOTING FOR THEM ALTHOUGH
THEY ARE NO LONGER WITH JOSHUA AND HE IS DETERMINED TO SEE THEM
DEFEATED IN THE ELECTIONS. IT SEEMS INCREASINGLY LIKELY THAT THE
ST. VINCENT LABOUR PARTY LED BY FORMER PREMIER MILTON CATO WILL
BE RETURNED TO POWER.
SIMMS

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